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**VERTEBRAL STABILIZATION ASSEMBLY AND METHOD**

**ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

5           A vertebral stabilization assembly for stabilizing  
vertebrae is provided. The vertebral stabilization assembly  
includes a first and a second pedicle screw, a first and  
second connecting screw, and a connecting member. The first  
and second pedicle screws each have a shaft provided with a  
10 threaded portion operable for threading engagement of the  
first and second pedicle screws with a first and second  
vertebra, respectively, each shaft also has an engaging  
portion. The first and second connecting screws each have a  
first end adapted to be received by the engaging portions of  
15 the first and second pedicle screws, respectively. The  
connecting member has a first end connected to the first  
connecting screw and a second end connected to the second  
connecting screw for stabilization of the first and second  
vertebra. A guide member for placement of the connecting screw  
20 and method for anteriorly stabilizing vertebrae is also  
provided.